

Chamber of Commerce in Culver

Minutes – April 29, 2008

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce in Culver convened their monthly meeting at 7:30 AM at the Culver Coffee Shop with the following in attendance: Mike Stallings, president, Ralph Winters, Dick Brantingham, Dr. Ron May, Rick Tompos, Dawn Minas and Scott Huberty in attendance. Executive Secretary, Bobbie Ruhnow, was also present. Greg Fassett, vice-president and Ben Schaller, treasurer were absent.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved on a motion by Tompos seconded by May.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of treasurer, Ben Schaller, Ruhnow presented the report received from Schaller. The dues receipts total \$7,980. Destination Culver receipts are \$1150 that includes a \$500 donation (\$50 to be applied toward the fall issue of the newsletter). The Top Ten Banquet produced revenue of \$1,660 (\$960 for dinners and \$700 in sponsor donations). Expenses were \$1,150 for dinners and \$229.90 for briefcases leaving a surplus of \$280.10.

Destination Culver

Ruhnow reported that the newsletter would be full 8 pages. Time frame for printing by Bowen, envelope addressing and stuffing will not allow mailing prior to the postage increase on May 12. Bowen will provide return address, stamped envelopes for convenience. Ruhnow asked for assistance in the final assembly process. Tompos is successful in having the address list maintained by Esther Miller converted into a PC document. Ruhnow plans to print addresses, but there are labels if needed. Minas agreed to have the deliveries made to her and assist with labels if necessary. Ruhnow will ask Millers Merry Manor staff to assist in stuffing.

SCC Update

Brantingham reported that the survey conducted by SCC last fall was primarily government oriented not necessarily oriented toward goals SCC/Chamber can accomplish. The sidewalk program will proceed and the Culver town council is on board with the process. Meetings of the group will begin in June when chairman, Jack Cunningham, returns. The group will examine their mission and goals at that time.

Triathlon

Minas discussed opportunity presented to host booths for the Triathlon (July 13) at a cost of \$500. Winters noted that final plans and coordinators had not been assembled and the board decided to not participate with a booth at this time.

Townwide Responsibilities

Tompos presented a memo listing some needs of the community that need to be completed each year coordinated with possible responsible parties. Included are Christmas Decorations, Christmas tree at the depot, summer banners, updating permanent signs, upkeep of sign areas including limestone sign at SR 10 & 17, hospitality pier. The Lions Club and Odd Fellows Lodge have declined further responsibility for Christmas decorations and Christmas tree decoration. The Knights of Columbus have agreed to maintain the depot Christmas tree, but there is substantial cost in decorations. Second Century is responsible for hospitality pier and maintaining banner placement at this time. Also, the maintenance of the signs with dates, directions require funds. It was noted that the limestone sign needs cleaning and landscaping. The

SCC treasury does not contain enough funds to maintain the signage as needed, Tompos said.

It was suggested that a group who wished to have special signage or directions posted, participate in the cost of the sign insert.

Brantingham also reported that directional signs at the Park had been vandalized and would need to be cleaned or possibly replaced.

At Winters suggestion, a committee composed of Brantingham, Stallings and Tompos, will discuss Christmas decoration and banner will speak with the town council.

Summer Fundraiser

Final plans haven't been made for the summer fundraiser in partnership with the Culver Kiwanis. The top prize will be an electric car, Stallings said and there will be several groups participating in ticket sales. The drawing is scheduled for the last night of Lake Fest, after fireworks.

Membership

Membership is below the 2007 number with 12 members remaining unpaid. Contacts and promises have been made, but unpaid members have been removed from the web site until payment.

Stallings has a list of 20 potential members to contact for the special membership offer. Tompos has contacted 6. Two new members, Custom Blinds of Lower South Bend, and 1st Source Bank have joined and Dr. Samuelson has renewed her membership after a two year hiatus. New businesses in town, Culver Bed & Breakfast, Jamison's Liquor Store, and JMC will be contacted for interest. Possible ribbon cutting ceremonies can be proposed.

Support Issue

Wishing to show support for Portside's maintaining in the community, directors will meet with Portside's owners and will voice an opinion when appropriate.

LakeShore Drive Update

Winters updated directors on options for repairing Lake Shore Drive that has collapsed over the winter months. One solution presented is to strip the pavement below the brick, rebuild the bed, and repave. New curbing would be installed. The cost of this option would be \$500,000 and require a bond issue, Winters noted. The option has met with some resistance from other council members and a decision has not been made.

Dinner Meeting

Minas has arranged a dinner meeting at Uptown Cinema for May 6th at 6:30. Dan Bickel will update members on plans for the summer and a movie will be shown at 7:00 PM

Bobetta Ruhnow
Executive Secretary